

TITLE OF INVENTION

Suite of parking regulation control systems

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CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not Applicable

REFERENCE TO A MICROFICHE APPENDIX

Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the invention

This invention relates to the enforcement parking regulations, particularly to motor vehicles that violate proximity restriction to points of reference such as fire hydrants, restricted parking zones, driveways, etc., and motor vehicles that violate parking times (both metered and posted).

2. Background

Regulations are enacted to control the parking of motor vehicles in various municipalities. Methods of restricting parking include the placement of parking meters and the display of signage near the curbing. Violations of parking regulations deprive municipalities of revenue from parking meters and significantly affect the ability of street sweeping and sanitation in larger cities. Parking abuse also deprives other vehicles of the legitimate use of parking spaces. Additionally, manual enforcement of parking regulations in dangerous neighborhoods often puts law enforcement personnel at risk when required to leave the safety of the patrol or street sweeping vehicle.

3. Safety

Officers patrolling by themselves in dangerous neighborhoods expose themselves to potential injury when they leave their vehicle and are focused on parking violators. This invention allows the officer to remain with in the relative safety of their patrol vehicle.

4. Cost savings

Current procedures have patrol cars either preceding or accompanying street sweeping vehicles. These patrol cars travel slowly and must make frequent stops to issue parking violations, often interfering with the flow of traffic in congested urban environments. Control of this new parking enforcement system is accomplished entirely by the operator of the street sweeping vehicle and completely eliminates the need for additional patrol cars and traffic or law enforcement officers.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention overcomes the problems associated with enforcing parking regulations by assisting and automating the manual processes performed by a Parking Enforcement Officer. The evidence provided by images and measurement improves the accuracy and timeliness in the issuing and collection of citations resulting in a greater efficiency and revenue. The ability to collect data without the need to leave the patrol or street sweeping vehicle significantly reduces the time over manual methods. Additionally, when mounted on a street sweeping vehicle, the need for an additional patrol vehicle is eliminated, thus reducing cost to municipalities.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a computer system and sensors, according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of data communication path summary.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Visual data is obtained via a CCTV camera mounted externally that is controlled from within the patrol vehicle or as a self-contained handheld system. A small video monitor is used to confirm the position of the camera and a manually operated trigger initiates the capture of the data. Several images, the number of which can be user-defined, are combined and simultaneously displayed in the video monitor in a split screen format, which is then stored in a local database for upload. Time stamps and distance measurements can automatically be added to the image if the user chooses the setup option to include them. This data is later used for generation of a parking citation.